

CLAIMS

What is claimed to be new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims.

I claim:

1. An end cap for the exposed ends of the pins and rods of an external fixator device, in combination comprising:
 - a) a fixator device for forming an exoskeletal brace for use on a limb of a patient, said fixator device having a plurality of fixation pins and at least one connecting rod, said fixation pins and said connecting rod being joined by a plurality of connecting clamps, said fixation pins having first and second opposing ends, said connecting rod having first and second opposing ends;
 - b) an end cap being disposed on said ends of said fixation pins;
 - c) wherein said end cap is oval shaped having first and second opposing ends and a first and second opposing side surface, said first side surface being generally disposed away from said fixation pins and said second side surface being generally disposed toward said fixation pins, said second side surface having a cavity therein; and,
 - d) pliable material disposed in said cavity, wherein said ends of said fixation pins are embedded into said pliable material to permit the ends of the fixation

pins to be covered.

2. The end cap of Claim 1, wherein said fixation pins are embedded into said pliable material and then removed from said pliable material.

3. The end cap of Claim 2, wherein said end cap is disposed on said ends of said connecting rod to permit the ends of the connecting rod to be covered.

4. The end cap of Claim 3, wherein each of said first and second ends of said end cap has a generally planar surface thereon.

5. The end cap of Claim 6, wherein each of said first and second ends of said end cap are conically shaped.

6. The end cap of Claim 5, wherein said cavity extends from a first point adjacent said first end of said end cap to a second point adjacent said second end of said end cap.

7. The end cap of Claim 6, wherein said end cap comprises a blunt cylindrical shape.

8. The end cap of Claim 7, wherein said end cap comprises soft material.

9. The end cap of Claim 8, wherein said end cap comprises compressible material.

10. The end cap of Claim 9, wherein a plurality of ends of said fixation pins are embedded into said pliable material.

11. The end cap of Claim 10, wherein a plurality of ends of said connecting rods are embedded into said pliable material.

12. The end cap of Claim 11, wherein said end cap is manufactured in a plurality of sizes to permit use with various sizes of the fixation device.

13. The end cap of Claim 12, further comprising a bubble pack for containing the end cap.

14. The end cap of Claim 13, further comprising a bubble pack for containing a plurality of end caps.

15. The end cap of Claim 14, wherein said cavity is rectangular shaped.